

# Media Release

## Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

**Scott Mascher – Sheriff**

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November 2, 2015

***YCSO K9s Deputies take large amount of Cocaine and Heroin off the Street  
along with more than 270 pounds of Marijuana in separate recent cases***

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NOTE: THIS RELEASE WAS DELAYED DUE TO AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION THAT FOLLOWED THE ARREST OF 2 SUSPECTS IN THIS CASE.

On October 22, 2015, at approximately 7:30AM, a YCSO K9 deputy stopped a gray 2015 Nissan Altima for an unsafe lane change violation east on I40 near Crookton Road, Ashfork. The driver was identified as 26-year-old Casiano Angulo Jr. with a passenger, 25-year-old Ignacio Soto Jr. Both are from the Los Angeles area.

During a discussion about the traffic violation, the deputy detected signs of deception and nervousness from Angulo regarding travel plans and his relationship to passenger Soto. At one point, Angulo admitted there was a small amount of marijuana inside the vehicle along with a small quantity of cocaine hidden in his cell phone case. The deputy spoke with Soto who acknowledged that marijuana would be found in the vehicle and agreed to a consent search.

During the search, deputies located a spare tire in the trunk area that did not match the type of rim and tire for the Nissan model being driven. The tire was also unusually heavy and difficult to remove. When the tire was cut open, deputies found several sealed packages of cocaine and heroin. Later examination revealed 30 pounds of packaged cocaine and 4.5 pounds of packaged heroin. Deputies did find a bindle of cocaine in a cell phone case along with marijuana inside the vehicle as Angulo had earlier indicated.

As a result, both Angulo and Soto were arrested and booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center on charges including Transportation of Narcotics/Drugs for Sales. Angulo and Soto have recently pled guilty to the associated charges and each was sentenced to 5 years in the Department of Corrections.

The street value of this combination load is estimated to exceed well over \$600,000.

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On October 30, 2015, YCSO K9 deputies seized 142 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop on east I 40 near Ashfork. While speaking with the driver, 39-year-old Thanh Phung from Berkeley, California, deputies could smell the odor of marijuana coming from inside his silver sedan. A subsequent search revealed several packages of processed marijuana with a total weight of 142 pounds.

Phung was booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center on charges including Transportation and Possession of Marijuana for Sale. He remains in-custody on a \$110,000 bond.



Phung

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Several recent traffic stops have resulted in the seizure of more than 130 pounds of marijuana by our very busy YCSO K9 team - some of these cases remain under investigation.

The team continues to remain active with the goal of stopping the flow of drugs into and through Yavapai County.

*Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:*  
[www.ycsoaz.gov](http://www.ycsoaz.gov)